

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01661 01 OF 02 241922Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /074 W

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R 241537Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2218

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

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USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 1661

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01661 01 OF 02 241922Z

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO

SUBJ: RADIO INTERVIEW WITH PORTUGUESE COMMANDING OFFICER AT LAJES
AIR FORCE BASE

EMISSORA NACIONAL BROADCAST MARCH 21 ON "MORNING SHOW" THE
FOLLOWING:

BEGIN TEXT: OPERATION ATLANTIDA (CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION).
THIS PROGRAM WAS INTERRUPTED ON MARCH 11 AND WILL BE CONTINUED
DURING THE FIRST HALF OF APRIL.

LAJES BASE - AMERICAN BASE. INTERVIEW WITH BRIGADIER
MARIO HILTON PEREIRA, COMMANDER OF AZORES AIR ZONE.

Q: THE AMERICAN AIR BASE IN THE AZORES HAS BECOME A
SENSITIVE SPOT FOLLOWING THE 25TH OF APRIL 1974 SITUATION.
THE AZOREAN PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY HERE IN TERCEIRA, REPEAT RUMORS
THAT IN THE AZORES THERE ARE BOMBS, HEDDEN UNDERGROUND, WITH
A STRATEGIC MILITARY PURPOSE AND THAT DETONATING THESE (BOMBS)
WOULD BE ENOUGH TO BLOW UP THE ISLAND. I WOULD APPRECIATE, SIR,
IF YOU WERE TO ELUCIDATE ON THIS MATTER.

R: ON THIS I WILL SAY THAT, UNDER THE EXISTING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THE AMERICANS HAVE INSTALLATIONS,
SOME OF THEM UNDERGROUND, SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND.
AS TO THE CONTENTS OF THESE INSTALLATIONS, I DON'T HAVE EXACT
KNOWLEDGE AS TO WHAT EXISTS IN THEM. AND I ADMIT THAT THE FEAR OF
THE POPULATION MIGHT BE CAUSED BY SIMPLE REASONING, IN A CERTAIN
WAY LOGICAL, THAT IN THE CASE OF CONFLICT THE LAJES BASE WOULD BE
THE OBJECT, OR THE TARGET OF RETALIATION BY FORCES WHICH MIGHT WANT
TO DESTROY IT. OBVIOUSLY, THE POPULATION WOULD THEN RUN A RISK.

Q: DO YOU NOTICE, THEN, ANY DIFFERENCE IN PERSONAL
RELATIONS BETWZEN PORTUGUESE AND AMERICAN OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS
AFTER THE 25TH OF APRIL? THE AMERICANS, WHAT DO THEY SAY
ABOUT THE 25TH OF APRIL? HAVE THEY FORMULATED AN OPINION?

R: I DO NOT HAVE ANY OPINION ON THAT. I ARRIVED HERE
AFTER THE 25TH OF APRIL. MY RELATIONS AND THOSE OF OTHER
OFFICERS WITH THE AMERICANS, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, ARE FRIENDLY
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PAGE 03 LISBON 01661 01 OF 02 241922Z

EVEN IF NOT TOO FREQUENT. AS TO THE OPINION OF THE AMERICAN
PERSONNEL IN RELATION TO THE 25TH OF APRIL, I HAVE NOT DETECTED
ANYTHING SPECIAL AND I BELIEVE IT MIGHT EVEN BE A MATTER OF
PRINCIPLE FOR THE AMERICANS NOT TO GIVE AN OPINION ABOUT THE
EVENT.

Q: I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE, SIR, IF YOU WOULD INFORM ME
WHETHER, IN YOUR CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE

HERE, AND TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE EXISTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS, YOU HAVE ACCESS TO ALL EXISTING MILITARY FACILITIES?

R: I WOULD SAY YES, THAT I CAN CONTROL IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO ME THE ACTIVITIES WHICH OCCUR ON THE ISLAND. ALL AMERICAN AIR MOVEMENT OR THAT OF ANY OTHER NATIONALITY WHICH TRANSITS HERE I CONTROL. WE KNOW WHERE THEY COME FROM AND WHERE THEY INTEND TO GO.

Q: DO YOU HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE EXISTING MATERIAL?

R: THAT IS NOT SO. WHAT I MEAN IS, IF CONCRETE CASES WERE TO OCCUR I WOULD HAVE TO RAISE THE PROBLEM BEFORE THE AMERICAN COMMAND, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT THAT WOULD NOT CREATE DIFFICULTIES IN OUR CONTACTS IF IT WERE TO HAPPEN. BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A PROBLEM IN A WAY NATURAL, SINCE THEIR INSTALLATIONS ARE EQUIPPED BY THEY THEMSELVES. OBVIOUSLY, TO ENTER THEM ONE WOULD REQUIRE PERMISSION FROM THE AMERICAN COMMAND.

Q: IS IT BECAUSE OF THE STRATEGIC MILITARY NATURE THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS? THAT IS, AMERICAN MILITARY STRATEGY?

R: NO. I ONLY HAVE A VERY FAINT IDEA OF THE STRATEGIC CONNECTIONS, THAT IS, WHICH OCCUR HERE, AND HOW IT IS INTEGRATED WITH AMERICAN STRATEGY. THIS IS VERY VAGUE, I ONLY HAVE A VERY FAINT IDEA ON THE SUBJECT.

Q: ONE OF THE REALLY FRIGHTENING THEMES, MAYBE FRIGHTENING BECAUSE OF ITS TANGIBLE REALITY, IS THE QUESTION OF THE CIA. IT IS REPORTED HERE IN TERCEIRA THAT THE CIA HAS ATTEMPTED TO INFILTRATE, USING, HYPOTHETICALLY OR NOT, A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 LISBON 01661 01 OF 02 241922Z

TOURISM AGENCY WHICH BY ITS ATMOSPHERE AND REACTIONS, IN A SHORT PERIOD, GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF NOT REALLY BEING A TOURIST AGENCY. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL, SIR, IF YOU COULD ELUCIDATE ON THIS.

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01661 02 OF 02 241921Z

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01661 02 OF 02 241921Z

R: AS TO THE CIA, THAT HAS BEEN GONE OVER SEVERAL TIMES
IN THE RECENT PAST. I DO NOT HAVE ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT
THE CIA IS MAKING AN ATTEMPT HERE IN ANY SCALE. THE CASE
OF THAT TOURISM AGENCY YOU REFER TO IS A MATTER WHICH HAS
BEEN REFERRED TO MILITARY CHANNELS. IT HAPPENED TO BE A

STRANGE CASE BECAUSE OF WHAT THAT TOURIST AGENCY TRIED TO START HERE IN TERCEIRA. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN PUT BEFORE THE MILITARY WHO WILL INVESTIGATE IT. WE ARE AWAITING THE RESULTS.

Q: WE BELONG TO NATO AND THERE IS ANOTHER FORCE, THAT IS, THE WARSAW PACT. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE A FEW COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT BELONG TO EITHER OF THESE TWO MILITARY FORCES. AFTER THE 25TH OF APRIL ONE MUST POSE THE HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION THAT PORTUGAL WILL BECOME INDEPENDENT OF THESE TWO FORCES, SO-CALLED IMPERIALISTS - WARSAW PACT ON THE EAST AND NATO ON THE WEST.

R: THAT IS A NATIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEM AND THEREFORE IN THE HANDS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. AT PRESENT, I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY ABOUT THIS.

Q: IN THE AZORES THERE ARE ALREADY SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE PARTY MAPA RECENTLY APPEARED. WE HAVE ALREADY MADE SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH ELEMENTS OF MAPA AND WE ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION, AS NEWSPAPERMEN, AND THAT IS AT THE LEVEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARCHIPELAGO, THAT MAPA MIGHT BE CONNECTED WITH AMERICAN INTERESTS. THEREFORE, AUTONOMY OF THE AZORES, INDEPENDENCE OF THE AZORES, WOULD MEAN CEASING TO BE PORTUGUESE. AND I MUST ADD, AS A JOURNALIST, THAT IN THE ENQUIRIES I HAVE CONDUCTED THE AZOREANS ARE 100 PER CENT PORTUGUESE BUT THAT MAPA, USING THE TERM AUTONOMY, INDEPENDENCE MEANS BECOMING AMERICAN DEPENDENTS, WITH AMERICANS' POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EXPLOITATION... EXPLOITATION WOULD RESULT AND THE EXPLOITERS, THOSE MAPA GENTLEMEN WOULD BE THE EXPLOITERS. DO YOU, SIR, HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE WITH RESPECT TO THIS?

R: THE KNOWLEDGE I HAVE OF MAPA IS VERY GENERAL, I AM NOT GOING TO REPEAT WHAT ALREADY HAS BEEN SAID MANY TIMES. (MAPA) IS INSTALLED HERE IN THE ARCHIPELAGO, IN CERTAIN ISLANDS MORE SO THAN IN OTHERS. I DO ADMIT - BUT ONLY AS A PERSONAL OPINION - THAT IT MIGHT BE MAPA'S STRATEGY TO DEFEND WHAT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 01661 02 OF 02 241921Z

BELIEVES TO BE IN ITS INTEREST SUPPORTING THE USA. BUT IT IS A PERSONAL OPINION WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE A CERTAIN LOGIC IF THEY ARE POSSIBLY SEEKING SUCH SUPPORT. END TEXT.

COMMENT: EMISSORA NACIONAL SAW TO IT THAT LISTENERSHIP TO THIS INTERVIEW WOULD BE HIGH BY ANNOUNCING SEVERAL TIMES OF "UPCOMING INTERVIEW ABOUT AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AZORES."
CARLUCCI

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